

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 DRC-01 SY-10 OPR-02 IO-14 OMB-01

OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 /155 W

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R 141321Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9875

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0431

EO 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RH, SF, ZA

SUBJECT: REACTION IN ZAMBIA TO MARCH 8 VICTORIA FALLS ATTACK

REF: PRETORIA 978, 998

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT MARCH 11 GRZ DENIED GUERRILLAS WHO KILLED 4 SOUTH AFRICAN POLICEMEN MARCH 8 NEAR VICTORIA FALLS CAME FROM OR RETREATED TO BASES IN ZAMBIA AS REPORTED ON RADIO SOUTH AFRICA. MOFA SPOKESMAN SAID "ALLEGATION CAN BE REGARDED AS AN EXERCISE IN SELF-DECEPTION." MAINTAINED WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN ZIMBABWE, MOZAMBIQUE, AND ANGOLA WAS NATURAL REACTION TO MINORITY'S OPPRESSION OF MAJORITY NO LONGER PREPARED REMAIN MUTE. DENYING THERE ANY GUERRILLA BASES IN ZAMBIA, SPOKESMAN SAID "FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE RIGHT IN ZIMBABWE ITSELF AND NOT IN ZAMBIA AND NO AMOUNT OF DECEPTION CAN ALTER THIS FACT." ADDED IT "MALICIOUS FOR RACISTS
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TO DELIBERATELY WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM NAKED TRUTH AND MIS-

CHIEVOUSLY SHIFT BLAME FOR THEIR OWN INTERNAL ILLS ON ZAMBIA
UNLESS, OF COURSE, THEY ARE SHAMELESSLY ATTEMPTING TO FIND
AN EXCUSE FOR LAUNCHING A MILITARY ATTACK ON INNOCENT ZAMBIA."

2. ZAPU STATEMENT ISSUED MARCH 12 CLAIMED CREDIT FOR MARCH 8
ATTACK ON KANDAHAR CAMP. CLAIMED ZPRA, ZAPU'S MILITARY WING,
KILLED 9 "TROOPS" AND CAPTURED MATERIAL. FOLLOWING ATTACK
ZPRA UNIT AVOIDED CAPTURE BY DISAPPEARING "IN TERRAIN THEY
HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SINCE WANKIE OPERATIONS OF 1967."
RELEASE ALSO REFERRED TO TWO LANDMINE INCIDENTS IN WHICH AT
LEAST 3 KILLED AND "MANY OTHERS WOULDDED." THESE INCIDENTS
SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED JANUARY 22 IN WANKIE TTL AND FEBRUARY
3 IN MLIBIZI AREA OF BINGA DISTRICT. STATEMENT FURTHER CLAIMED
SMITH REGIME HAS CEASED GIVING CASUALTY FIGURES "FOR FEAR OF
FURTHER ALARMING WHITE SETTLER POPULATION AND SCARING AWAY
TOURISTS." END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL;) :9..3,5: ZAPU STATEMENT CLAIMING RE-
SPONSIBILITY FOR MARCH 8 INCIDENT SURPRISING IN ITS BLAT-
ANCY. ORDINARILY, GRZ CAUTIOUS IN ITS TOLERANCE AND CONTROL
OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS, SEEKING AVOID AGGRAVATIONS WHICH COULD
ARISE FROM SUCH STATEMENTS. BELIEVE THIS MUST BE CASE OF VIO-
LATION OF GRZ CONDITIONS AND POOR LIAISON.

4. GRZ DOUBTLESS AWARE FACTS SURROUNDING MARCH 8 ATTACK BUT
IT CERTAINLY NOT PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE EXISTENCE OF GUERRILLA
BASES IN ZAMBIA. LOCATION OF INCIDENT STRONGLY SUGGESTS ATTACKERS
CAME FROM ZAMBIA. FOR SEVERAL YEARS ZAPU HAS HAD CAMP IN
ZAMBEZI VALLEY NEAR KABANGA EAST OF LIVINGSTONE.

5. QUESTIONABLE WHY GRZ WOULD ALLOW REFLECTION ON ITS CRE-
DIBILITY BY DENYING CAMPS' THEIR PRESENCE RATHER THAN REMAINING
SILENT. PERTINENT TO NOTE IN THIS CONTEXT THAT WILDLIFE CON-
SERVATION INTERNATIONAL, AMERICAN ORGANZIATION ATTEMPTING
ESTABLISH GAME RESERVE HERE, HAS IDENTIFIED THREE FREEDOM
FIGHTER CAMPS IN ITS LEASEHOLD BETWEEN GREAT EAST ROAD AND
ZAMBEZI RIVER (LUSAKA 404 AND PREVIOUS). GRZ DID NOT RPT NOT
DENY THEIR EXISTENCE WHEN THEIR TROUBLESOME NATURE BROUGHT
TO ATTENTION OF RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY; RATHER COMMITTED ITSELF
TO ROOTING THEM OUT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, PARAMILITARY FORCES, POLICE FORCES, MISSING PERSONS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUSAKA00431
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740344/aaaaboxp.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PRETORIA 978, 998
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION IN ZAMBIA TO MARCH 8 VICTORIA FALLS ATTACK
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RH, SF, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005